



CLUB REPEATERS VE3TBR

Phone: 807-767-7661
Listen: 146.820 MHz
Txmit: 146.220 MHz
Listen: 444.825 MHz
Txmit: 449.825 MHz

VE3YQT
Phone: 807-767-5492
Listen: 147.060 MHz
Txmit: 146.460 MHz

VA3OLA
Listen: 53.050 MHz
Txmit: 52.050 MHz

WEEKLY BREAKFASTS

Saturdays 9:30 a.m.
Blue Parrot Restaurant
376 Lisgar Street
(Off Memorial Avenue)

2m MINI-NET
Mondays 7:00 p.m.
VE3YQT Repeater.

NEXT MEETING



7:30 p.m. Room 214
McIntyre Building
Confederation College

SHORTWAVES

Lots of stuff to tell you this month. *The Coast Guard Radio Station is staying in Thunder Bay, so I'll be around for a few more years.*

HI-Q has been awarded a certificate of excellence "for the advancement of amateur radio journalism" for 1995 by the Amateur Radio News Service. Jim, VE3UA suggested the club subscribe to the news service as it can offer advice and articles to editors. The ARNS has an annual evaluation of newsletters submitted by the member clubs. Pat's, VA3GD's *Irkutsk* article was praised by the judges and they all enjoyed reading about the Russian amateurs visit.

Mea Culpa

I cut off the last two lines of Don's, VA3DPB's column last issue. Basically, it was "Hope to see you on the VA3OLA repeater and his and Dave's, VA3DVE's packet addresses: VA3DPB@VE3TKA and VA3DVE@VE3TKA. Don had a few calls about his column. Glad to see that they enjoyed it.

The Comets Cometh

Took a few pictures of Comet Hyakutake and will enlarge a couple of prints and maybe show them at the next club meeting. It was a bright one but another one, Comet Hale-Bopp, discovered last summer is coming around in March 1997. It should be even more spectacular but that's the long range prediction. Two comets in one year! This time, I'll be ready photographically and out in the darkest spot that I can find.

Adobe Acrobat

I just received the Adobe Exchange/Acrobat software. This issue will be the first one in the PDF (portable document file) format. It's

becoming an Internet and government standard and Adobe is flooding the market with the cross-platform readers. Everyone who receive copies of *HI-Q* via email will see it just like I created it with my desktop publishing software. Graphics, colour, video or audio, whatever future editor's decide to produce.

I've purchased the software at my expense and am donating the software to the club and will maintain the upgrades. Now, any editor can use his or her favourite DTP program and produce the same consistent and cross-platform PDF files.

Versions of the Acrobat reader are on *The Mailbox* and *ONLINE NOW* BBSes and of course on the Internet at www.mv.us.adobe.com. I also have the CD-ROM for copies if needed. -Ed.

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1995/1996 LARC

Founding President

P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW
1881-1972

In honour of the memory of our founding president, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

Senate

Bill Roberts, VE3ARN
Keith Fiske, VE3JQ
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY
Ray Greer, VE3CH
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

Executive Board

President: T. Stewardson, VE3TKA	577-9439
Vice Pres: Ed Baumann, VE3SNW	622-1216
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC	577-9316
Treasurer: "Skip" Wright, VE3BBS	767-2307
Directors: Ian Mellis, VA3RIM	577-1628
Dave Horne, VA3DVE	344-9325
Don Bel, VA3DPB	473-5482
John Watson, VE3GTX	683-3199
Mem.Sec: John Watson, VE3GTX	683-3199
Past Pres: Mark Vukovich, VE3VUK	345-5856
HI-Q Ed: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM	344-7731

Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., an Ontario registered non-profit corporation. The opinions expressed or implied in issues of HI-Q are those of the author. The LARC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or the information submitted.

Material in HI-Q may be copied for non-profit use provided that credit is given to the source. Contributions related to amateur radio, especially those articles of interest to northwestern Ontario amateurs are encouraged. Material can be submitted in WordPerfect® format or as a text file or via fax to: 807-345-2688 or via packet radio to: VA3ROM@VE3TKA#NON.ON.CAN.NA or voice mail on the VE3TBR repeater to user 159 or via Email to: bmazur@oln.com. Send material or dated announcements no later than the 20th of the month in which it is to appear.

To reduce production and distribution costs, advertising at the following per issued rates is accepted: full-page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) are available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your ad copy and cheque (payable to the LARC) to the club address listed below. Advertising in HI-Q does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service by the LARC.

LARC membership fees are set for the year as follows: regular—\$30.00, associate—\$20.00, associate (attending ham classes)—\$80.00, student (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. HI-Q is sent to all LARC members but only one copy is mailed to each address.

Mailing Address

Please send all club correspondence to the following address: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 4A3, Canada.

Internet Home Page

The LARC has an Internet web site home page that is sponsored by Len, VA3LEB. The Internet address is: <http://www.foxnet.net/larc>. Stop by for a visit and get your HI-Q electronically.

Thunder Bay Voyageur Award

The LARC, in cooperation with the City of Thunder Bay, sponsors this award. Anyone working or monitoring 5 Thunder Bay amateur radio stations qualifies.

Send your log copy with call signs, dates, times, frequencies and \$2.00 Canadian to the club address listed on this page.

CENTRAL ONTARIO FLEA MARKET

Jointly sponsored by the Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Clubs

Saturday, June 8th, 1996

Bingeman Park

1380 Victoria Street North

Kitchener, Ontario

General Admission \$5.00

Talk-in on 146.97(-), 145.21(-) and 146.52.

2 METRE RTTY UPDATE

In order to comply with the 2 metre band-plan, Dave, VE3AVS has moved his RTTY station to 145.800 MHz, 45 baud, narrow shift. He will operate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 - 9:15 EDT or 01:00 to 01:15 UTC.

Do join in for a QSO!

Meeting Minutes

by Norm, VE3XRC

Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 214 at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on April 11, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson with 35 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started with a round-table of those in attendance introducing themselves.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held March 14, 1996 were published in detail in the April edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. **Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the minutes be accepted as published. **Carried.**

Correspondence:

- a letter from SPARC (Society for the Preservation of Antique Radio in Canada); turned over to *HI-Q* editor.
- a letter from the Central Ontario Amateur Radio Fleamarket.
- a letter from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind; see new business.
- a letter from the Thunder Bay Museum re ham shack; see new business.

Treasurer's Report:

VE3BBS, Skip Wright reported the annual 1996 financial statement as of April 11, 1996 as follows:

Balance as of March 14, 1996:

\$1,349.57

Expenses:

457.73

Income:

1040.31

Outstanding Invoices (Call Books):

656.00

Balance as of April 11, 1996:

\$2,588.15

Motion: moved by VE3XET, Eric Todd and seconded by VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

President's Report: VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson

- Call Books: we have printed and sold 200 already. Due to the continued demand, we will have to print another 100 call books. At present, the Club

has an order for 25. From all accounts, every one is pleased with the quality of the books and appreciates the amount of work done by VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson and VE3BBS, Skip Wright.

- Club Lapel Pins: there are still a number of Club Lapel Pins for sale, as well as hats and crests.

- Seminars: there has been a good response to the seminar questionnaire handed out at the March meeting. The executive will be meeting April 18/96 to set up a schedule so that the seminars will not conflict with each other. Some seminars will take more than one evening to complete. Ham classes will soon be finished for this year and room 214 at Confederation College will be available Thursday nights for the seminars.

- Upsala Repeater: the equipment is presently in the basement of VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson. The receiver and transmitter are ready to go. The unit will be given a burn in period in town before it is relocated to the Upsala site. The call sign will be VE3BGA and the frequency will be 145.45(-). **Motion:** moved by VA3GD, Pat Doherty and seconded by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki that the President be given the authority to negotiate and purchase a set of duplexers for the Upsala repeater. **Carried.**

Old Business:

- Electronic *HI-Q*: VA3ROM, Bob Mazur described the program that he is purchasing to donate to the Club to create an universal platform to enable members with computers to read *HI-Q* electronically.

- Field Day: will be held at Hawkeye Lake, the summer camp of VA3RIM, Ian Mellis during the last weekend in June.

New Business:

- CNIB request for donation: a letter was received from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind requesting a donation from the LARC in support of their Amateur Radio Program. **Motion:** moved by VA3GD, Pat Doherty and seconded by VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton that the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club make a donation

of \$100.00 to the CNIB Amateur Radio Program. **Carried.**

- Thunder Bay Museum: an Email was received from David Hawkins which stated that the Thunder Bay Museum, in its long term exhibits under construction, has a Ham Radio Shack exhibit. He also stated that the Museum is still raising funds to put the exhibit together. The President VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson will arrange a meeting with the Museum to see what the actual status of the Ham Radio Shack exhibit is before the Club discusses any donations to be made.

- Club Incorporation: VE3UA, Jim O'Brien has been going through old records of the Club and came across a set of "objectives" laid down in 1979 as to the purpose of the Club. He also pointed out that it has come to his attention that the incorporation papers for 1996 have not been filed with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. **Motion:** moved by VE3UA, Jim O'Brien and seconded by VE3JAB, Bob Bishop that a committee be formed to find out what the Club's status is at present with regards to incorporation, renew our incorporation papers and set up a schedule of time dated requirements of the Club that are done on an annual basis. **Carried.** The committee will consist of VE3JAB, Bob Bishop, VE3UA, Jim O'Brien and VE3XRC, Norm Bell.

Adjournment: moved by VA3ROM, Bob Mazur that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

50/50 Draw: winner of the 50/50 draw was Bob Niel.

Following a short break, VA3RIM, Ian Mellis introduced the evening's guest speaker who was none other than VA3EAP, Judy LeFevre. Judy is a Governor in Toastmasters and explained what the organization is all about and what it has done for her. Toastmasters is a form of effective communication just as amateur radio is. She pointed out that both organizations consist of great people. As part of her presentation, she picked on certain club members present to do a one minute impromptu speech on a topic of her choice.

S.P.A.R.E

by Dave, VE3AVS

Join the very latest Thunder Bay repeater user organization-S.P.A.R.E.-the Society to Preserve Automated Repeater Etiquette. Membership open to all amateurs using repeaters but should be of special interest to those using VE3YQT. There are no membership fees, no newsletters, no meeting or officers. Read on!

An excellent article by Ed, VE3SNW on how to use repeaters was published in the September, 1995 issue of *HI-Q*. It was read by all of us and unfortunately ignored by most of us. Likewise, many of us have thumbed through our regional callbook. But, did you read footnote (1) on page 106? Is QSY such a difficult thing to do on your radio?

Here are a few good reasons for practising good manners on VE3YQT and QSYing to simplex when communications are established.

1. VE3YQT has traditionally been the place to "hang out" but our numbers have grown so quickly that the "hang out" is getting crowded. So, what's wrong with using VE3TBR?
2. Technology allows many of us to program frequencies into our 2 metre rigs, then scan them. How frustrating to lock onto VE3YQT every scan only to hear the same voice for 5 - 10 - 15 - 20 minutes and more. So, we "lock out" the repeater for a while, then keep going back to see if it's clear.
3. Some of our fellow amateurs across Lake Superior would like to make contact via VE3YQT from time to time. They are often reluctant to "break in" to an ongoing QSO.
4. VE3YQT has greater range than VE3TBR, so it makes good sense to avoid using it over short distances.

By all means, use a repeater for a QSO if you are not in range for simplex. However, you can have good simplex QSOs across most of our immediate area.

In order to facilitate greater access on VE3YQT and limit long-winded QSOs, I am asking the LARC officers to seriously consider returning the "time-out" feature to VE3YQT. A motion to consider this may be forthcoming at a future meeting. Meanwhile, let's all review our repeater etiquette by joining S.P.A.R.E.

73-Dave, VE3AVS.

This is a good topic for the May or June meetings. There is a lot of "dead air" on all of the repeaters here and across the Lake. So, we all have a tendency to yak on the repeater till someone wants to break in.

According to the rules, repeaters are for primarily for mobile use. We should QSY, if possible, when working point-to-point.-Ed.

Legion 10 Mile Road Race

Ten (10) radio operators required to provide radio services on May 10, 1995 for the race. Start time is 10:00 a.m. Coffee call at Robins on Syndicate Avenue at 09:00 a.m.

Contact Skip, VE3BBS if interested in volunteering.

Custom Call Sign Plaques by Ian, VA3RIM

18-1/2" x 4-1/2" mahogany background with 2" high x 3/4" thick pine lettering with your own call sign.

Comes complete with hanging chain and hooks
\$15.00 in Thunder Bay

\$20.00 outside Thunder Bay (includes postage.)

TO ORDER:

Make cheque payable to Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and mail to:

1100C Memorial Avenue, Suite 184
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3.

Enter your call sign in the spaces provided.
Please print! Allow 4 weeks for delivery out of town.

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T & S Radio Electronics

VE3TKA

Terry Stewardson

VE3BBS

Skip Wright

2052 Dawson Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 5E3

Tel: (807) 767-5224 Fax: 768-8164 Email: t&sradio@tbay.tel

FOR AMATEURS BY AMATEURS

Across from Five Mile School on Highway 102
at the Dawson Road Country Store

Blurb-OLAgram

by Don, VA3DPB and Dave, VA3DVE

Welcome once again. Hope that everyone enjoyed the first OLAgram. There were a few lines missing from the last paragraph but they were just our packet addresses.

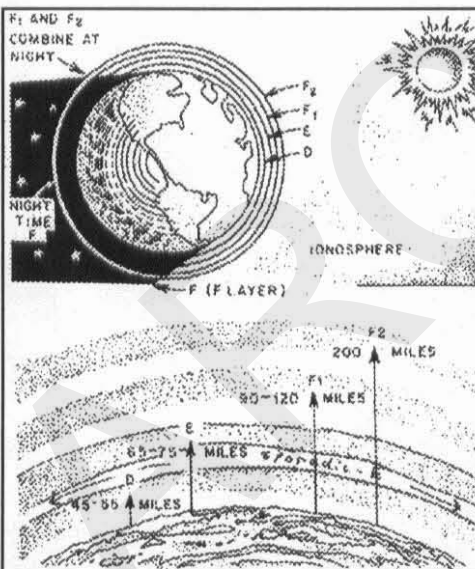
Last issue, I mentioned that I had just qualified for my VUCC Award. Well, it finally arrived! It sure looks good up there on the wall. When you join Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), you also become an associate member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). You can then qualify for some of their awards. The Canadian (Ontario) representative for the ARRL is Gary Hammond, VE3XN. He may be able to help you with any awards from the ARRL. Send a S.A.S.E. to Gary and he will send you any information that he has on file for the various awards. His address is: #5 McLaren Avenue, Listowel, Ontario, N4W 3K1.

The topic for this issue is on sporadic-E skip. Along with that term are other factors that may influence an opening, such as F2 reflections and Aurora. All of these factors depend on the time for year (spring or summer), sunspot cycle and weather conditions. The best definition for sporadic-E is found in the ARRL Handbook: "Efforts to predict sporadic-E openings have not been highly successful, probably because its causes are not well understood. Studies have demonstrated that small and unusually dense patches of ionization in the E-layer, between 50-60 miles in altitude, are responsible for sporadic-E reflections. These sporadic-E "clouds", as they are called, may form suddenly, move quickly and dissipate within a few hours."

Well, that's all fine and dandy. So, just what do I look for in the sky to tell me that there might be an opening on the way? A good sign that sporadic-E is taking place is with your eyes! A quick change in weather conditions is the first sign. Look for big white fluffy clouds (cumulus) or

rain clouds coming on the way out of no where. All these quick changes in weather will cause an inversion in the atmosphere and cause the layers to shift resulting in an opening.

Normally, temperature decreases with altitude at a constant rate. It's usually colder at 1,000 metres than on the ground. An inversion is an abrupt and rapid increase in temperature with altitude. It also prevents clouds and pollutants from rising above a few hundred metres when thermal lift is cut off because the rising air is now suddenly colder than the air above it!-Ed.



Listen on T.V. channels 2 through 6 (56-88 MHz) and the FM broadcast band (88-108 MHz). Your television, if using "rabbit ears" will pick up new stations from afar and wipe out those in progress. Vic, VA3BEL calls me from his house in the country when his T.V. acts up. Eric, VE3RUE listens to his scanner in the 44-49 MHz range for U.S. state trooper activity. Dave, VA3DVE well, I don't really know what he does to spot an opening. I guess that's because I don't know where he is in the province 99 percent of the time! He says that he's up in the James Bay area but the suntan tells me differently!

Most single-hop E-skip openings

may last for hours up to 3 days, such as we experienced last Christmas. Contacts range from 400-1300 miles, mostly occurring in the spring and early summer. We have have a few multi-hops on FM but that mostly occurs on 6 metres SSB. Just as Ed, VE3KRP. We worked some stations in Alberta using aurora scatter. The aurora scattered signals can be identified by the distorted "flutter" effect since the aurora is really an electrically charge "curtain" waving and moving in the E-layer.

Distortion may disappear and the path may lengthen well beyond the usual 1300 mile limit. But, the topic of aurora is yet another issue! Keep a watchful eye on the Jet Stream on your local weather channel. A Jet Stream running from west to east is the best with no north or south movement.

Well, I hope that this helps a little and whets your appetite to learn and study more about E-skip. Perhaps, you'll be the first ham to prove what causes it and be able to predict it.

Since the last issue, we have 3 new hams interested in 6 metres FM. Don't forget that 6 metres SSB uses horizontal polarity and FM uses vertical polarity. This refers to the orientation of your antenna or beam, either sideways or vertical to the ground. You may not be able to hear stations using the opposite polarity because the magnetic and electric fields are not cutting your antenna at right angles. I think that this is just a theory, I'm running a 5-element beam horizontally on FM! What does that tell you? *After the first hop, antenna polarity doesn't matter. The bounce(s) off of the ionosphere and ground put "spin" on the polarity of the signal.-Ed.*

Do read the article in the April TCA. There is a good one called *Six Metres and Down* by Dana, VE3DSS. See you all on the band and OLA to all!

73-Don, VA3DPB@VE3TKA & Dave, VA3DVE@VE3TKA.

Personality of the Month

by Ian, VA3RIM

Bill Wainio, VE3LMV

Bill Wainio, VE3LMV, seventy-three years of age, was born on April 27, 1923 and is a member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

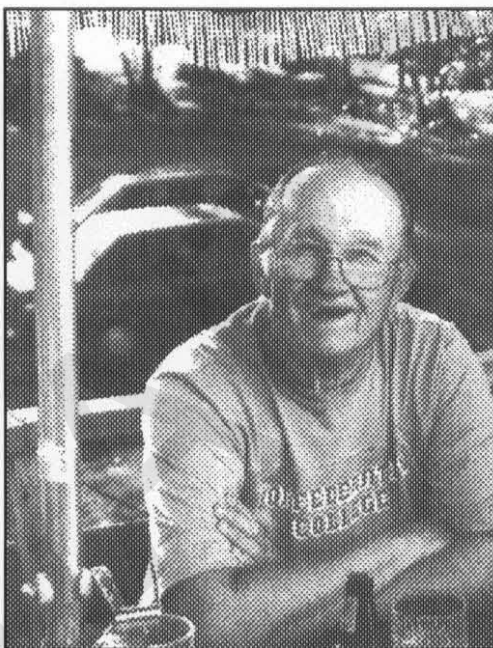
Bill's early years were spent in Port Arthur, Ontario [now Thunder Bay]. His father worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway but the family also owned Wainio's Confectionery Store on Red River Road. Bill says that at the age of nine or ten he worked in the store on Sundays and by age eleven in 1934 he was keeping the account books for the store. In his teenage years while attending Port Arthur Collegiate, Bill learned about amateur radio from Harry Stevens who was the brother of Joe Stevens, the local radio inspector.

Bill had a couple of jobs after he graduated from high school in 1940. The first was at the Port Arthur Ship Building Company as a rivet passer. The job paid twenty-five cents per hour. After falling from a scaffold and injuring his knee, Bill quit. He found his next job at Canada Car in the subassembly department where they were building Hawker Hurricane airplanes. He kept this job until August, 1941 when he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy.

Bill started his training as an Ordinary Seaman Wireless Telegrapher. He was stationed in Port Arthur for the first month but then he was one of two men selected to go on a special four month training course at the University of Toronto where seventy-five men from across Canada were to learn about a new invention called ASDIC, later called SONAR. Bill was then sent to Halifax for basic

training for ten weeks followed by an eight week course in advanced SONAR. The world was at war and Bill was ordered to board the Canadian corvette ship, the HMCS Trillium.

The corvettes were, as Sir Winston Churchill said, "cheap and nasty". They were about two hundred feet long and thirty-three feet wide with one engine, one propeller and one four inch gun. The corvettes were used as escort



ships to protect merchant ship convoys plying the Atlantic Ocean bound to and from Europe. The story of these escorts and the men who sailed on them is portrayed in the book *Corvettes Canada* written by Mac Johnstone published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Bill is mentioned in the book.

The HMCS Trillium cruised the north Atlantic Ocean between Newfoundland, Canada and Londonderry, Ireland. According to Bill, there were in a couple of sea

battles. He says that it was a war of nerves. The convoys were always attacked when the crews were about to sit down for supper and then it was to the battle stations for the next fourteen to sixteen hours. If and when they returned everything would be one big mess.

The constant stress of not knowing when your life would be taken combined with the wild north Atlantic seas must have taken an enormous toll on the young men. Once following a battle the HMCS Trillium had to rescue one hundred sixty-eight men from a stormy sea after their ship had been torpedoed. At another time Bill says that a storm came upon them and the convoy was strewn over a hundred mile area. Ships were broken in half. Waves were massive. Bill says all that you could do was to hold on. He says that he experienced real fear.

Bill was on the HMCS Trillium for one year and then he took another course in even more advanced submarine detection training and then it was back to sea again. This time he was aboard the HMCS Granby. Bill was in charge of the submarine detection equipment. When something failed to work, he had to fix it. The HMCS Granby was a mine sweeper sailing between St. John's, Halifax, Boston and New York while taking convoys to St. John's in preparation for the voyage to Europe.

Following a stint on the HMCS Granby, Bill was sent to Cornwallis in Nova Scotia for more training when the Navy got new equipment. It was about this time that Bill began to realize that he had a really big problem. When he was on the

HMCS Trillium making runs between Canada and Europe he had met a girl in Ireland. Bill's big problem was how to get back to Londonderry to see Nancy.

The Navy must have thought highly of Bill because he was next stationed aboard a ship that "just might be going to Ireland!" This ship was the HMCS Penetang and this time he was a qualified Petty Officer responsible for of the anti-submarine equipment plus six operators. Bill remembers that they were sailing with a skeleton crew and were just leaving the harbour when the ship, the HMCS Magog was being towed into the harbour with it's stern blown off by an acoustic torpedo. These were torpedoes which were once fired would hone in on the target by means of the sound from a ship's propeller. One can only imagine how Bill felt at the time but they did eventually get to Londonderry, Ireland! The war was winding down and Bill and Nancy planned to marry in August, 1945 but Bill had to get back to the ship because Canada was still at war.

Bill was in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean heading back to Canada when his ship was notified that the war was over. Bill now had a really, really big problem. He was heading in the wrong direction. He wanted to go back to Ireland. Bill must have commanded much respect or power or both because when he got back to Canada, he talked to those in command about his problem of getting back to Ireland and it just so happened that the ship was indeed going there!

Before Bill left Canada he sent a cable to Nancy that said, "Now or never. Get ready." Bill now had a really, really, really big problem. The cable had to be sent by another member of the crew and in a short time everyone on the ship knew why they were going back to

Ireland. "Signals" started to arrive for Bill from "the Admiralty". [Only Bill knows what they said and he won't talk.] All that he will say is that at first he thought that the "signals" were serious. Apparently the crew was unmerciful. He says that it took awhile before he learned what the crew members were doing but by that time they were ready to dock in Londonderry, Ireland, and there, waiting for him, was his future brother-in-law when he disembarked.

Bill and Nancy were married on Saturday, June 2, 1945 almost fifty-one years ago and on the following Tuesday, Bill had to sail back to Canada without Nancy. Nancy remained in Ireland until April, 1946 when she came to Canada as a war-bride. The passage was paid by the Government of Canada.

Once Bill got back to Canada, he sailed many times between St. John's and Quebec City bringing home returning troops. Bill got his final discharge at HMCS Griffon in Port Arthur on October 25, 1945.

It was now back to civilian life for Bill. He held many jobs. The first was at Northern Wood Preservers for one day. Then he worked at Canada Car for War Assets Disposal and then for the Department of Veterans Affairs for six months followed by joining the Canadian National Railway as a locomotive fireman and then for the Brewers Retail for another six months. Next he worked for Canadian Pacific Railway for ten years but with the introduction of diesel locomotives, he lost his job in 1958 where upon he operated his own business known as West End Television for ten years. Bill stayed with this until he got to the point of either having to expand or close the business.

Providence seems to have a way of shining on Bill. The Community College system was being

introduced into Ontario and Confederation College was being built in Thunder Bay. Bill became a technician with them in 1968 and stayed there for the next twenty years rising to the position of Senior Technologist. Bill retired in April, 1988 at the age of sixty-five.

Bill gained his amateur radio license in 1983 which was five years before he retired because he wanted to have something to do when the time came. He upgraded his amateur radio qualifications and got his Advanced license with phone privileges in 1988. He has now discovered that he does not have much time for amateur radio because he has so many other things to do. Bill teaches computers to senior citizens at the 55 Plus Centre once every week and has been doing this for three years. His camp on an inland lake takes much of his time. He is working on a model of the Blue Nose sailing ship. Bill belongs to the Royal Canadian Naval Association where he is on the fundraising committee trying to raise fifty thousand dollars for a Naval monument to be built at the waterfront in Thunder Bay. He even finds time to help LARC with public service events like the Sibley Ski Tour and various road races. Time was also taken to build a 40 metre radio for CW and he even played with antennas.

Bill Wainio, VE3LMV you risked your life at a very young age to serve your country and to this day you are still giving of your time and your skills to others. You were a pioneer in working with new technology and now you have successfully advanced to enter the age of the computer. It is very obvious that you want to learn even more. May your health continue to allow this to happen. Bill, those of us in the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club are proud that you are one of us.

73-Ian, VA3RIM.

Amateur Radio Administrative Services

The Amateur Radio Administrative Services (ARAS) is being established by the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) with financial assistance from Industry Canada. The purpose of ARAS is to provide administrative services to all Canadian radio amateurs from coast to coast.

Why is ARAS being established?

Shortly after the launching of the single national amateur radio organization, RAC, in 1993, the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) was established by Industry Canada and RAC to act as a vehicle for discussing and resolving issues of concern and interest to all radio amateurs in Canada. One of the key items discussed at the first meeting was the feasibility of delegating to RAC a number of the administrative functions associated with providing the amateur service. As a result, the joint RAC/Industry Canada Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) was formed to explore the possibilities for delegation and to report back to RAC and IC. The ADWG produced a draft business plan which outlined the amateur services to be delegated and the costs involved. The business plan proposed the establishment of a new not-for-profit company, operating at arms-length from RAC, to be responsible for carrying out the delegated functions. That new company will be called Amateur Radio Administrative Services (ARAS) and is presently in the process of being incorporated.

What services will ARAS offer?

The services being planned for delegation initially are:

1. Call Sign Assignment

ARAS will look after the management of all call signs assigned to radio amateurs in Canada. At present there are approximately 46,000 call signs recorded in the Industry Canada (IC) database. ARAS will manage these records and deal with requests

for new and changed call signs. One of the new features being made available to aid amateurs in selecting call signs is an on line, official, assigned call sign database. This of course is also useful as a general call sign directory. Initially it will be updated once a month, however plans are underway for a much more frequently updated database.

2. Certification Records Management

ARAS will maintain the Certification Records database which records the level of certification of each radio amateur in Canada. This will be updated based on input from official Delegated Examiners as the result of changes to the various qualification levels through examinations. ARAS will also be responsible for issuing certificates to both new amateurs and those who have upgraded their qualifications, as well as collecting the appropriate fees.

3. Documentation Control and Distribution

There are a number of documents currently produced by IC which are useful to radio amateurs covering everything from examination requirements to suppression of radio interference. Some of these documents are amateur specific while others are more general and of interest to those involved in other aspects of radio as well. This documentation will be accessible electronically and also available in paper form for the cost of printing and mailing. ARAS will be responsible for updating the amateur specific documents once delegation commences. Since most of this material is based on interpretations of the various Radio Acts. It will be necessary for Industry Canada approve any changes made.

Where will ARAS be located?

Industry Canada provides administrative services to radio

amateurs from approximately 30 District Offices. ARAS won't be able to be in as many places and will operate on a centralized basis. Two locations are being considered, one in Ottawa serving all English language radio amateurs in Canada and the other in Montreal serving all French language radio amateurs in Canada.

How will ARAS be operated?

A Pilot Project, funded by Industry Canada, has just been completed. The main objective of the Pilot Project was to find out how Industry Canada presently handles various queries and processes relating to the amateur service and to work out how ARAS might handle these same functions under delegation. It also looked at the costs which would be incurred in starting up and running ARAS.

Another part of the Pilot Project, carried out by Information Gateway Services of Kanata, Ontario, established the Internet home page, the official call sign database and the document database.

Who will work for ARAS?

ARAS will be managed and operated by qualified, paid professional staff. An estimate of the number of people required and their skill requirements has been made as part of the Pilot Study outlined in the preceding section. The general manager will report to the ARAS Board of Directors for overall guidance and direction and will run the company as an independent operation serving all Canadian radio amateurs and potential radio amateurs.

When will ARAS be in operation?

The timing of the introduction of services provided by ARAS will be dependent upon the outcome of the Pilot Project and the ability to arrange funding both for start up and ongoing operations. At this point, it appears that ARAS will be in operation by mid-1997. (Via the Internet www.aras-sara.ca)